

## Place Name SUMMARY (PNS) 5.04.01/13

### (a) YALA-WALANGGA (b) YALA-WALA PUDNA

(last edited: 3/12/2014)

#### Abstract

(a) **Yala-walangga** is the Kurna name for part of the small tributary creek which runs through Delamere into Yoho Creek. It referred originally to the section along Main South Road where springs bring water from the steep hill slope to the east. The name was recorded here as 'R. Yallawalunga' by the first surveyors in 1839.

Its meaning is uncertain.

<b>Coordinates</b>	-35.574412° Latitude, 138.187859° Longitude.
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#### Language Information

<b>Meaning</b>	'place of <i>Yalawala</i> '; possibly 'place of the wallaby leg'.
<b>Etymology</b>	<i>yala</i> [uncertain] + <i>wala</i> [uncertain] + <i>-ngga</i> 'at'. Possibly <i>yarla</i> 'calf of the leg' + <i>wadla</i> 'wallaby' + <i>-ngga</i> 'at'.
<b>Notes</b>	There are several different Kurna morphemes which could have been represented by 'yalla', and several more by 'wala'. A few of them are known vocabulary, of which 'wallaby' and 'leg-calf' are the most plausible. But there is no way of knowing which words were originally used.
<b>Language Family</b>	Thura-Yura: 'Kurna'.
<b>KWP Former Spelling</b>	Yala-walangga
<b>KWP New Spelling 2010</b>	Yala-walangga
<b>Phonemic Spelling</b>	/yaLawaLangka/
<b>Pronunciation</b>	"Yala-walangga"
<b>Pronunciation tips</b>	Stress the 1 <sup>st</sup> syllable; secondary stress on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; every 'a' as in Maori 'haka'.

#### (b) Yala-wala Pudna:

The waterhole at the junction of the Yala-walangga Creek with Yoho Creek has been named by KWP *Yala-wala Pudna*, 'Yala-wala Waterhole' (KWP Minutes 13/11/14). Shirley Mulcahy in 1992 attributed to this waterhole the name "**Tjircowinga** - Tjirbruke Spring Water Place", but there is no known primary source for this name. It may be something misunderstood from Tindale, possibly 'Itjikawingga' (see Discussion).

Kurna vocabulary: *pudna* 'waterhole; native well' (stress 1<sup>st</sup> syllable; 'u' as in 'put'; soften the 'd').

KWP New Spelling 2010: Yala-wala Pudna.

Phonemic Spelling: /yaLawaLa putna/

<b>Coordinates</b>	-35.574251° Latitude, 138.183444° Longitude.
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## Main source evidence for Yala-walangga

Date	<b>1839</b>
Original source text	<b>“R. Yallawalunga”</b> [in sections 12-14 (= 1522-1520) along northeastern tributary of Stockyards Creek].
Reference	‘Plan of 15 sections in the country adjoining Rapid Bay... Mr Bryant’s survey’, Plan 6/15a, GNU.
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	Kurna survey guides 1839.

Date	<b>1992</b>
Original source text	- <b>“Tjircowinga - Tjirbruke Spring Water Place”</b> . - “Three springs bubble up constantly from deep down in the earth to form <b>Tjirbruke’s Spring Water Stream</b> , which runs through the reeds and walnut trees to cataract down in miniature to a cool deep pool where it joins the Stockyard Creek”.
Reference	Shirley Mulcahy 1992, <i>Southern Fleurieu Historic Walks: Tjirbruke Country</i> : 29, 32.
Informants credited	
Informants uncredited	

## Discussion: ‘YALLAWALUNGA’:

### THE CREEK:

The little tributary which Bryant marked ‘R. Yallawalunga’<sup>1</sup> still flows southwest from springs, through the town of Delamere alongside the Main South Road.

Descending a slope from the southeast, it joins a small reedy gully running down the northern side of the road, adding its water to a small waterhole or there; then continues westward alongside the road and down Yoho Road to join Yoho Creek which emerges from the south by the old Delamere Uniting Church.

In 1840 merchant Henry Jones, with his brother Frederick, bought sections on the slopes just south of here and at Second Valley, and came there to live in 1841.<sup>2</sup> His headquarters were at Second Valley, but he used the southern part of the Yoho Creek valley to yard his sheep, and soon others

<sup>1</sup> Bryant, ‘Plan of 15 sections in the country adjoining Rapid Bay’, Plan 6/15a, GNU.

<sup>2</sup> Sections 1518-9 and 1564 (see Roy Williams 1985 / 1991, *To Find A Way: Yankalilla and District 1836-1986*: 30, 94).

did the same, including William Randall when he took over the Jones land in 1850. Thus the whole area came to be known as 'The Stockyards', and the upper reaches of today's Yoho Creek were in later years sometimes called Stockyards Creek.

Apparently the Kurna name 'Echecowinga' was applied here for a while. But as settlers settled down, they came to consider the name 'Stockyards' *'very inappropriate'* and 'Echecowinga' *'long and clumsy'*, and the area was rechristened as Glenburn (Scottish for 'valley stream'), and later still as Delamere.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE NAME:

'Yallawalunga' is in the standard Kurna form for a five-syllable place-name. It ends with the locative suffix *-ngga*; and the morphemes are all capable of interpretation in known Kurna vocabulary.

The first morpheme could be *yarla*, 'calf of the leg', or *yala*, 'the present time, the now, ?today'.

The second could be *waadla* 'a tree lying on the ground; block; wood in general', i.e. dead wood; or it might be *wadlha*, recorded only by Williams 1839 as "*wad-lah: wallaby*".

We cannot be sure what kinds of *l* were used in 'Yallawala', nor whether the two stressed 'a's were short or long. The name might be derived from some of the words above. One or both of the morphemes could be from other vocabulary which was not recorded. Part or all of the name might be an accidental homonym, like 'why' and the River Wye. We have no sure way of knowing which of these is true. Or, like 'London' and 'Wye', the name may not have had any known contemporary meaning.

Of the combinations which we can deduce, *yarla-wadlha* 'wallaby leg' appears to make most sense; but we can't tell if this is the one originally meant.

#### THE WATERHOLE:

'R. Yallawalunga' turns down Yoho Road into a wonderfully secluded valley, where its junction with the Stockyards or Yoho Creek forms a shady waterhole at a bridge just past the Uniting Church. Shirley Mulcahy wrote of this with justified enthusiasm:

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<sup>3</sup> See PNS 5.04.01/12 ?Ityi-kauwingga.

*Below St James Church, on the other side of the road, three springs bubble up constantly from deep down in the earth to form Tjirbruke's Spring Water Stream, which runs through the reeds and walnut trees to cataract down in miniature to a cool deep pool where it joins the Stockyard Creek, or towards the sea, named Yohoe Creek. The pool is secret and tranquil, and has the aura of a special place. One can imagine it would have been frequented by Aboriginal women whose children would have enjoyed its softly tinkling waters.*<sup>4</sup>

It is tantalizing that she named the Yala-walangga Creek as 'Tjirbruke's Spring Water Stream', and also called the waterhole "Tjircowinga - Tjirbruke Spring Water Place".<sup>5</sup>

But she is the only known source for this name and for any connection of this place with Tjilbruki. Where did she get this unsourced information? I tentatively suspect that she or some other local chronicler had misread a note on Tindale's Yankalilla map, "Itjika:wingga": the word is crowded and partly illegible, written across some Sections just east of the River Yatagolonga but with an arrow applying it to Second Valley. Or perhaps Tindale had made a personal communication to somebody unknown, in which he gave this new and equally speculative interpretation of the old settler record 'Echecowinga'. There is no known evidence that any Aboriginal informant connected this place with Tjilbruki.<sup>6</sup>

The language group Kurna Warra Pintyanthi have christened this lovely pool *Yala-wala Pudna* ('Yala-wala Waterhole').<sup>7</sup>

#### A LANDSCAPED WALLABY-LEG?

In the vicinity of the Main South Road, the watercourse now gazetted as Yala-walangga follows the shape of a kangaroo or wallaby leg, as the appended map shows. The thick black line shows where Bryant marked the original 'R. Yallawalunga'. Standing on the hills to the north,<sup>8</sup> someone who knew the local hydrology intimately could see the wallaby's 'leg' where the water comes down the steep little southeastern gully – though there is no visible water here and it is largely

<sup>4</sup> Mulcahy 1992, *Southern Fleurieu Historic Walks: Tjirbruke Country*: 29, 32.

<sup>5</sup> Mulcahy 1992: 22.

<sup>6</sup> See PNS 5.04.01/03 about Tindale's 'Itjikauwingga' allegedly at Second Valley. In fact this name is a variant of the Kurna name which was for a while attached to Delamere, 'Echecowinga' (see PNS 5.04.01/12 'Itjikauwingga'); perhaps this connection got into the mix before reaching Mulcahy. But it would still be hard to imagine how the baffling error about 'Tjircowinga' at Delamere (if error it is) could arise. In the 1980s Tindale seems to have given out several new speculations about place-names as personal communications to inquirers from the community: cp. PNS 5.04.01/03 on 'Jaitjakawengga Reserve'; and his new etymology of 'Yankalilla' from "jankalan" (see PNS 5.02.01/02 Yangkalyilla). Language items in Mulcahy's book otherwise unrecorded, such as 'Tjircowinga', suggest that she may have consulted Tindale directly.

<sup>7</sup> KWP place-name meeting 25/4/11 Minutes; KWP meeting 13/11/14 Minutes.

<sup>8</sup> e.g. near St James' Church, which is one of the buildings shown northeast on the main road.



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underground at most times – to form several springs along the ‘calf’ (the sloping valley Yalawalangga going southwest on the main road at a right angle to the ‘leg’), forming a visible stream just before turning sharply west onto the wallaby’s foot (at Yoho Road) before joining Yoho Creek.

In this light *yarla wadlha*, 'leg-calf of a wallaby', may very probably be the correct interpretation. However, we cannot be certain.

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*End of Summary*